BULLETIN FROM

The New York Office 405 East 54th Street, New York

Vol. IV June 15, 1936 No. 12

MUST BOOKS

Aug 17

Singer, I. J. **THE BROTHERS ASHKENAZI** Knopf

** A dark horse, yes. A long book, translated from the Yiddish. The earmarks of a book to let the other fellow gamble with, it would seem. If I were in your place, I should deliberately set out to be one of the gamblers, and from much the same point of view that I advised gambling in *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh*. This book has somewhat the same power, in its unforgettable picture of a race, persecuted, shunned, feared, used, discarded. It is the story of twins, Polish Jews, whose paths are strangely divergent, only to meet and cross and come into conflict at scattered moments of vital import to both. A broad canvas, in time and thought, is here sketched; a small manufacturing town, centering for health, wealth and happiness in the prosperity of a circumscribed number of manufacturing plants, is the background for most of the story, and the focus is largely on the older of the twins, the lesser man, in his struggle to win his place in the sun, by fair means and foul. The period covered goes back, well before the Russo-Japanese War, and forward through the World War, and its aftermath of revolution, race wars, inflation, prosperity, despair. It is a tremendously gripping book, a book which *you* can help make a success. The publishers have faith in it. They've rescued it from the obscurity of its original language and publication, and are backing it as an important lead item. Go to it! $2.75

August ~~20~~ 17

They Walk In The City

Priestley, J. B. ~~THE STONE FOREST~~ Harper

** It's good Priestley, in a story of small town folk lost in the maze of London's impersonalities of department stores, restaurants, boarding and lodging houses. Two rather simple young people meet, love, part, in a small town; they lose each other and seek each other again in London; they are buffeted by chance, victims of their own ignorance and naivete, but ultimately chance plays their hand and they find themselves, in small measure, and each other - and lose all sense of London's glamor. The first two thirds of the book seem relatively simple, the last third gathers around it the shifting panorama of a modern city, cross-sectioned. - Backed as one of the publisher's important books, with heavy advertising, and a variety of sales aid, posters, cards, etc. $2.50

SLIM CHOICE OF GOOD SALES BETS

Singularly few are the good bets in this group:- I liked a dark horse, *Cannery Anne* by Morris Hull (Houghton, Mifflin); the new Neil Bell, *Strange Melody* (Doubleday, Doran) has a chance. In non-fiction, Daniele Vare's *The Last Empress* (Doubleday, Doran) is the best bet. For reports, see below.

PROBLEMATICAL BOOKS - *Fiction*

July 6

Watson, Virginia THE FEATHERLYS: *A Virginia Tapestry* Dutton

Her last novel was *Manhattan Acres*. This is built on somewhat the same pattern - a chronological family novel with historical background, from the first Featherly to settle in Tidewater Virginia in 1624 to the last descendants of the line, 1928. Individual episodes tell a story of loyalties divided, of wealth from tobacco, of the dwindling and eventual restoration of family fortunes. Double market - those who like episodic family novels; those who like their history painlessly administered. Not an important book, but a pleasant one. $2.50

Announcing for

July 13

Fergusson, Harvey FOLLOWERS OF THE SUN Knopf

Omnibus volume containing three books covering 100 years in our Southwest, *In Those Days, The Blood of the Conquerors, Wolf Song.* $2.50

July 15

Stapledon, Olaf ODD JOHN Dutton

Wellsian in concept is this story of a superman from his earliest childhood to his death. The progress of his self education, his inventive ability and growing wealth, his despair at mankind and his voluntary isolation until he understands his destiny, his telepathic searches for others of his kind and the founding of a colony where they can work out their ideas....and their eventual self destruction. In a sense, a commentary on current modes of life and thought and practice - meat for those who like imaginative reading, provocative and outside the conventional channels. Not a book for a wide market. $2.00

July 21

Hull, Morris CANNERY ANNE Houghton, Mifflin

Remember *Slim?* Through a story of a youth whose life was built around his enthusiasm for and absorption in a job which he glorified to a mission, a vocational novel took on color and drama. This seems to fit into the same category - though this time the central figure is a girl, "hail fellow well met", and the setting the life of the cannery folk in California , with its high lights and low lights, its small joys and sorrows. She's a vital, lovable character, and the picture given is a human one, implicit in its comdemnation of labor methods and attitude. From the angle of fiction, the plot is thin - but I liked it. Sell for its human values. "Cannery Anne" is a real flesh and blood person. $2.00

~~July 24~~ 9-4- LG Sent

Bell, Neil STRANGE MELODY Doubleday, Doran

* Under a new publisher's imprint, Neil Bell may get fresh impetus and widen his market. Some day he may write a big book. This isn't it, but it has the elements that have given him a certain following, and the subject - a writer's life, holds

fascination for many readers. Through the daughter's story, Bell tells of a writer's struggle for recognition, his supreme confidence in himself, the trials with his publishers, the founding of his own publishing house, his venture into the drama. Complete - perhaps too much so - of a born writer in adversity and fame, with interesting sidelights on the profession. A good many technical details - same sympathy for his characters - a Dickens-y touch. $2.50

August 3

Richter, Conrad EARLY AMERICANA Knopf

One of the best collections of tales of frontier days that I can recall, and should prove a valuable addition to the American literary and historical background. One hears so often that authentic material concerning frontier women is difficult of access. Here it is, in rich profusion. Each story is first rate as fiction. When viewed as fact it takes on greater importance. Good material, superbly handled. The man can write - and he knows his stuff. Should have a steady build-up for a long haul. Try for plus sale through schools as supplementary reading. $2.50

August 4

Woolford, Mason MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS Crowell

A middle class tale and a mediocre job. Story of a somewhat down at heel family, who supplement their fallen fortunes by taking a boarder who falls in love with the daughter. The mother adds to her colorless life by her interest in a musician. The son falls for the janitor's daughter. And so on. $2.00

August 6 ✓

Henry, Harriet BURN, CANDLE, BURN Harper

Good rental bet - light with serious undertones. A girl, hurt by the unhappiness of her parents' marriage, forswears love and seriousness, only to come a cropper when she meets a writer who breaks down her defences. How she loses him and finally wins him back makes up the remainder of the story. $2.00

Grayson, Charles, Editor STORIES FOR MEN Little, Brown

Macabre tales - are men supposed to like them better than women, or is the virtual omission of the love theme as dominant interest the reason these are designated for men? In any case, it is a tremendously interesting group of stories, difficult to locate, and many of them well worth preserving. For instance, the Stephen Vincent Benet story, *Elementals*, is one of the great stories of the past ten (?) years, and deserves this permanent form. Among the authors included are Caldwell, Hemingway, James Cain, Connell, Cozzens, Edmonds, Farrell, Faulkner, Scott Fitzgerald, Fessier, Dashiel Hammett, Ring Lardner, Mencken, Ross Santee, Saroyan, James Stevens, Thurber, Jim Tully, Thomas Wolfe, Alexander Woollcott. There's much besides the macabre - there's humor - there's sport - there's the modern note. It's a grand collection. $2.50

9-18

~~August 7~~

Crocker Armee ~~Orange, Ursula~~ And I'D Do It Again ~~BEGIN AGAIN~~ Coward McCann ~~Putnam-Minton, Balch~~

The publishers call it fiction. If I were selling it, I'd sell it as autobiography, somewhat fictionized. That's the impression it leaves. Besides a

not too pleasant taste in the mouth, for it is just on the verge of bad taste. A background of the Crocker family in California - European education - marriage and divorce - and an all pervading "call to the east" dominating her life. The Hawaiian Islands, Japan, China, the Indies. The people she meets, the things they do, a picture of the late '90's. Odd bits of history, philosophy, cults. Spotty in interest, uneven in style. On the woman's side, something of the appeal of *The Asiatics*, perhaps. Not for the conservatives. $2.00

Announcing for August 20

Loti, Pierre THE ICELAND FISHERMAN Stokes

New edition, frontispiece in color, of a classic tale. $2.50

August 21

Peattie, Louise Redfield AMERICAN ACRES Putnam-Minton, Balch

* There is more focus, more definiteness in this new novel than in some of Mrs. Peattie's earlier work. A story of a girl brought up in France, married to an American of deep rooted traditions and family loyalties, who dies as a result of war injuries. At the command of his American family, his widow eventually takes his daughter to America. Can't stand the absorption of his family's attitude to her, and flees, having committed herself to one of the in-laws as his mistress abroad. The child has left her heart and loyalties in her father's old home, and this call is the theme of her real life, though her surface living is in devious paths, keeping out of her mother's questionable mode of life. Eventually, she is shunted back, finds her old love still there, tries to escape the implications, but is eventually absorbed into it all. Well done - public libraries with a responsibility toward censoring morals, may not like it. $2.50

RECOMMENDED MYSTERIES, THRILLERS, WESTERNS

July 1

Grayson, Rupert GUNSTON COTTON Dutton

"Gun" Cotton, ex war ace, finds plenty of adventure - and romance - in his search for another British secret service agent who has disappeared and the trail ends in an international treaty and a fight in aeroplanes. London- fens of England - Paris for backgrounds. $2.00

July 17

Horler, Sydney THE GRIM GAME Little, Brown

Further exploits of the redoubtable Tiger Standish who uses his presence on the British team of a French-English football match as a cloak for his work against spies and yet more spies. Plenty of action. $2.00

~~July 23~~ 8/6

Wynne, Anthony MURDER IN THIN AIR Lippincott

A Dr. Haileu yarn in which he goes to Scotland to look into the murder of wealthy Sir Malcolm killed by a bullet and a knife. Trail leads to a corner on wheat and Communist plotting. Business background in part. Fairish. $2.00

July 24

MacDonald, Wm. Colt BULLETS FOR BUCKAROOS Covici, Friede

Good average Western in which an Irish newspaper and three partners clean up a lawless outfit trying to ruin the father of a beautiful girl. Jewel and Chinese smuggling give new elements. $2.00

Davis, Reginald THE CROWING HEN Doubleday, Doran

* Amusingly written thriller - not a straight detective story. Setting a small English town; story revolves around a group of murders seemingly connected with some newly leased property. Bridegroom investigates and rounds up the murderer. $2.00

August 3

DuBois, Theodora ARMED WITH A NEW TERROR Houghton,Mifflin

Story in which a family is terrorized by four murders solved by doctor-relative who prevents a fifth crime. Good entertainment. $2.00

August 7

Latimer, Jonathan THE LADY IN THE MORGUE Doubleday, Doran

* A good one, with the same hard-boiled private detective, Crane, to the fore. (Remember *Headed For A Hearse?*) A mysterious unidentified corpse of a beautiful lady is spirited away. Claimants then appear from various directions. Problem, if she is not so and so, where is so and so and who is she? Plots within plots. Pretty tough - but first rate of its school. $2.00

Webb, Barbara WHIPPOORWILL'S CRY Doubleday, Doran

They all do it - write a mystery now and then. This is romance as well, for a girl whose broken heart mended by a man who turns out to be a special federal agent whom she helps (and hinders) in his assignment. An Eastern Dude ranch in the Virginia hills is the setting. $2.00

Douglas, Gavin THE TALL MAN Putnam-Minton,Balch

Good adventure - rental library fodder. Setting a boat bound from Antwerp to Ireland. Tall Man saves captain, stows away, discovered, given job of murdered fireman. Eventually discovery that vessel is ued to smuggle arms. $2.00

Announcing for August 20

Sayers, Dorothy L. STRONG POISON and HAVE HIS CARCASS Harcourt, Brace

In one volume,the two novels in which Harriet Vane previously appeared. The success of *Gaudy Night* supplies market for this as plus sale. $2.00 ?

August 26

Foster, Bennett SEVEN SLASH RANGE Morrow

Intelligent Western - better class. Period - Theodore Roosevelt administration, and the west turned upside down by ruling that fences be removed. Train robbery - villain hurts "the girl's father" - all elements in pleasant blend. $2.00

August 26

Homes, Geoffrey THE DOCTOR DIED AT DUSK Morrow

Robin, reporter-detective of *The Man Who Murdered Himself*, offers himself as a victim in solving three killings made to look like accidents. California peach valley for the setting. On the hardboiled side but good entertainment. $2.00

PROBLEMATICAL BOOKS - *Non-Fiction*

July 1

Wallace, Henry A. WHOSE CONSTITUTION? Reynal & Hitchcock

* I confess to have felt surprise when I realized this was another book out of the Administration group - for I had found it absorbingly interesting and stimulating reading. At close of it one feels (1) that through cooperative movement and a facing of the fact that after all the Constitution is intended to facilitate progress with a united front, not to block it, our country has a chance to right itself; and (2) that the sooner we understood more definitely that the makers of our Constitution were compromisers, men with some degree of self-interest, and so on, the easier it will be to accept the flaws in the product. Historical background focussed on the part the Constitution has played gives broad panorama of our national story. Good election year reading. $1.75

July 9

Madden, Joe (Markee) WHAT'LL YOU HAVE, BOYS Farrar & Rinehart

Colloquial, modern Josh Billings sort of stuff, touching lightly on modern trends, thought, custom, deed. Faintly philosophical underneath, and, for its type, mildly amusing. In sections of reading public where he is known i.e. New York and college youths through his restaurant, The Sideliner, should be good plus sale item. Beyond that, I question wide appeal. $1.50

July ~~1~~ 30

Lascelles, Edward THE LIFE OF CHARLES JAMES FOX Oxford Press

Life of famous English statesman, who took what was then radical stand in last half of 18th century, opposing war with the American colonies, opposing Lord North, then Pitt, and standing for freedom for Ireland. Not inspired reading, but good, substantial, scholarly stuff, for backlog. $3.75

Wade, Aubrey THE WAR OF THE GUNS 9-10 Scribner
Western Front, 1917-1918

* A grand book, easy reading, interesting pictures, and the one known (to the reader) book on the artillery branch of the Great War. The personal story of a signaller who served with the artillery in the British Army. Background of war as he knew it - brief text, packed with interest, extremely readable, and with frequent sparks of quiet British humor. Introduction by Edmund Blunden. Illustrated from authentic photographs. ~~$2.75~~ 3.00

July 22

Cannon, Alexander THE SCIENCE OF HYPNOTISM Dutton

The Cannon books, particularly *The Invisible Influence*, have reached definite success in the special market of those interested in psychic phenomena. Now comes this very brief study of study of the place hypnotism has played in science, the principles upon which it works, the theory, the methods, and the treatment of refractory cases. $2.00

August 1

Bragdon, Claude DELPHIC WOMAN Knopf

Another book for the psychic market - and the Bragdon name is the best opening wedge. This goes beyond the field usually encompassed. into something of the history of women and their place in the sun. He analyzes what they have lost - what gained, and why this has special significance from the psychic point of view, present and future. $2.00

Reilly, William J. HOW TO FIND AND FOLLOW YOUR CAREER 8/31 Harper

First step in vocational guidance, and a self-help book along those lines. How to analyze one's own interests and potentialities, how to develop toward reaching the selected goal, through facing the facts. He expresses strong belief in the possibility and importance of doing the thing one wants to do, against all obstacles. A book to put in the hands of boys and girls who are planning their immediate futures - and of people interested in vocational work, etc. Theoretical, in that no specific advice is given or specific occupations. $1.75 ✓

August 3

Forman, Henry James THE STORY OF PROPHECY Farrar & Rinehart

If a book on the subject is needed, this certainly fills the bill admirably. In readable, spirited fashion, the author builds the history of prophecy and the part it has played in world history, world philosophy, world superstition. There are exceedingly interesting stories of special instances, particularly prophets, and their effect on the public; there are broader sweeps, such as the handling the ancient prophets of Judaism, of classical days. And he brings it right up to the present - almost spooky, in some of the applications. $3.00

~~August 28~~ 9.23

David, Henry THE HISTORY OF THE HAYMARKET AFFAIR Farrar & Rinehart

In leading up to the dramatic "Haymarket Affair", the author builds virtually the whole picture of the radical movement in America, and emphasizes the part the Haymarket affair played in giving impetus to later developments. An exhaustive survey, which fits into the reading of primarily radical groups, seeking details of historical background. $4.00 ✓

Fairchild, Henry Pratt THIS WAY OUT 8-17 Harper

Brief treatise, a publication of The People's League for Economic Security- packed with meat, and constructive in the weighing of possible "ways out" and the development of his theory that, through gradual socialization of basic industries,

utilities, natural resources, and big corporations, we can avoid the dangers of actual revolution. A small book for people who are groping toward some such plan, but who have not the facts of operation in hand. $1.00

August ~~8~~ 31

Laski, Harold J. THE RISE OF LIBERALISM Harper
The Philosophy of a Business Civilization

A careful and thoughtful study of the roots of the liberal movement, with the emphasis, naturally, on Europe. The growth through the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, with its reasons rooted in the needs it filled. Relation to economic and social factors, to religion, to geographical conditions, to science, and, finally, the reasons why liberalism is so wrapped up in the conventionally accepted aspects of capitalism that with the failure of capitalism, liberalism is also a back number. Point of view at moments extreme, usually balanced and carefully thought through. Good reading, which is more than can be said for a recent history of liberalism. Good public library item, schools, colleges. $~~3~~.00 3.00

Gorer, Geoffrey BALI AND ANGKOR Little, Brown

By gentle spoofing, humorous side hits, and quiet revelation of the unprepossessing aspects of the Malay Peninsula, Java, Sumatra and various hitherto glamorously presented bits of the world, Geoffrey Gorer debunks the specific section of the Orient of which he writes, for tourists now and to come. He leaves virtually all his praise for Bali, which he says is miraculously unspoiled and unspoilable, with somewhat grudging credit to a few high spots in other sections. Lighter reading than his *Africa Dances* - less scientific in content. Uneven in appeal. Certain anecdotes, sparsely scattered, are the best reading of all. Not a continuous narrative, nor to be classified as straight travel book, but rather a series of studies and sketches. $3.00

August ~~2~~ 21

Larsen, Hanna Astrup SELMA LAGERLOF Doubleday, Doran

Short and quite charming biography of one of the great literary and human figures today. Holds closely to facts revealed in Miss Lagerlof's own inimitable autobiographical material, but high spots are concentrated in brief compass, that "he who runs may read". Gives survey of her work, in relation to her life. Illustrated. Sale for schools should offer plus business. $1.50

Fernandez - Azabal L. THE COUNTESS FROM IOWA Putnam-Minton, Balch

Somewhat gossipy autobiography of a woman who started her strange career as an actress, Madeline Bouton, married a German baron, met a Russian and eventually married him, and now is married to a Spaniard. She survived ten years of Russian Revolution and Civil War, and tells her own version of various important events. Might have some of *Daisy of Pless* appeal. Illustrated. ~~$2.75~~ 3.00

~~August 21~~ 8-7

Vare, Daniele THE LAST EMPRESS Doubleday, Doran

* Good reading, this life of that strange Empress Dowager of China - emphasis on woman herself, and her relation to China changing, to international conditions, to social and economic and political matters. Less of drama of court life

than I had expected, though occasional glimpses are enticing. Weighs evidence on moot questions, sometimes presenting conflicting versions, Important for students of Chinese history. $3.00

August 24

Harris, Florence LeGanke — EVERYWOMAN'S COMPLETE GUIDE TO HOMEMAKING — Little, Brown

Can't see but what any woman interested remotely or actively in the subject would find something of value here. Every facet of homemaking - food, cooking, budget, building, cleaning, staff, routine, etc. etc. Helpful, up to date, and interesting in manner of telling. Answers the million and one daily needs. $2.50

THESE BOOKS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR INCLUSION IN MAY ISSUES

June 4

Eyre-Walker, B. — ROLLING ON! — Lippincott

Sub-titled "the Log of a Land Rover" - this is the story of an Englishman, a rolling stone, whose colorful career has carried him to cattle ranching in the Canadian Northwest, handling property in Virginia, holding odd jobs in New Zealand, and acquiring a wife and five children. Mildly amusing. $4.00

June 15

Benet, Stephen Vincent — BURNING CITY — Farrar & Rinehart

First published collection of shorter poems since his beloved *John Brown's Body* was published. Contains material that has appeared in periodicals and elsewhere, indicating modern and slightly left wing trend, and maturity of technique. $2.00

June 18

Cassel, Gustav — THE DOWNFALL OF THE GOLD STANDARD — Oxford Press

A Scandinavian rooter for the gold standard shows why he no longer thinks the practice possible to reestablish. Surveys historical background, and offers no substitute, as yet. For those interested in money theories. $2.50

June 19

Merriam, Charles — LAST OF THE FIVE MASTERS — Claude Kendall

A landlubber takes a trip in "the last of the five masters" to Norfolk, Martinique, Venezuela, etc. Daily experiences, yarning with seamen, adventures in port. Easy and pleasnt reading, and fair entertainment value, for those interested in the sea from the landsman's angle. $2.50

June 24

Thomas, Mary — MARY THOMAS'S EMBROIDERY BOOK — Morrow

An essential item for anyone interested, professionally or otherwise in the subject. Covers every stitch and type of embroidery, of various nations, likely to come within scope of American interest and knowledge. Instructions clear-cut and simple to follow. Fully illustrated. $2.00

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